

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03884 121352Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 121320Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8667
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3884

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PGOV LE JO XY
SUBJ: SYRIAN REACTION TO LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: AMMAN 5842

1. MY OLD FRIEND ABDUL MUN'IM RIFAI'S ACCOUNT OF SYRIAN ATTITUDES IS INTERESTING. IT NOTEWORTHY THAT KHADDAM SAID SYRIANS WERE TAKING STEPS SARKIS WOULD WISH TO TAKE BUT WAS UNWILLING TO AUTHORIZE. NOT SURE WHETHER THIS REFLECTS KHADDAM'S IGNORANCE, OR BLITHE DISREGARD OF SARKIS'S REMONSTRANCES, OR LATTER'S INABILITY SAY ANYTHING UNEQUIVOCAL. WHATEVER THE CASE, IT IS INDICATION OF LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SYRIANS AND LEBANESE THAT KHADDAM COULD SAY THIS WITH, I PRESUME, A STRAIGHT FACE.

2. MILITIAS MAY WELL HAVE CUT THROATS OF THIRTY-FIVE SYRIANS OVER PAST YEAR, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO SINGLE INCIDENT OF THAT SORT, EXCEPT FOR SYRIAN SLAUGHTER OF CHRISTIANS LAST WEEK IN JUNE. EITHER ABDUL MUN'IM

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03884 121352Z

GOT IT MUDDLED, OR SYRIANS ARE EVEN BIGGER LIARS THAN I THOUGHT.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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